



St. George & St. Andrew United Church Annapolis Royal

Special Newsletter #1 March 21, 2010



"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." - [Philippians 4:13](#)
"All the world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming".-Helen Keller

Hollyhocks in Galilee

Dear Friend in Christ,

Greetings from my house to yours!

I have never experienced a time in my life where social life has changed so much so fast, nor where I've felt such deep connection with other humans across our planet. This is truly an extraordinary time that has come upon . The New Testament has a name for time like that , time that breaks in vertically and changes perceptions everywhere: Its called "Kairos", whereas "Chronos" is the horizontal time line, like in "Chronology of events".

"Kairos" is God -Time in the Bible. So it follows that we must ask for what Divine Wisdom may be revealing to us in this time. As you have much time on your hands, perhaps you may keep asking yourself once in a while: "What is God's wisdom in this time teaching me ?"

I have felt for years that "things could not just continue as normal forever"; humanity being on a dangerous trajectory of over consumption, rushing, mindless pursuits of distraction...Now a forced halt. For some this "halt" is easier than others. This week some of you have enjoyed extra time to do those things "one always wanted to do but never had time for", some even have gotten some early gardening hours in. Meanwhile the earth breathes relief as pollution slows and skies and waters clear.

This "halt" is "Sabbath" time – for all of us. Time to reflect and time to relax, time to turn the challenges into opportunities. What have you come to appreciate this week? I'd love to hear the good news (and if its ok with you, to share them with the rest). Since "physical distancing" (I prefer that term to "social isolation) is still so new, most of us will not yet have experienced the brunt of the difficulty. But since its likely to hit us harder the longer it goes, let us share what good we can wrestle from it!

As your minister I continue to think and pray about how best to support you. Please let me know if you are missing something or have a bright idea! Here's what we've come up with so far:

PASTORAL PRESENCE: I am planning to be in touch weekly by these letters. They are a place for updates on church and spiritual life, will contain tips and feature St George & St. Andrew announcements . I can be reached by phone and ask you to call if you have any concerns or just want to update me on your situation: [REDACTED] If you see my van in front of the office please ring the door bell and drop in. Most of the time I will be working from my home computer though.

WORSHIP: In keeping with the recommendations of our Executive minister **our building is now closed for worship and all gatherings at least until March 30. Every Saturday you will receive a worship bulletin from me with a service for the coming Sunday.**

We will be joined Sunday mornings in Spirit while our building is closed. We are the church. Church never was about the building even though we love our building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: I ask you to send material for the bulletin to me via email:
stgeorgeandstandrew@gmail.com

Our PRAYER LIST: Please send also prayer requests, including name and a brief description of the situation, but please check with the person beforehand that they are fine with that..

CARE & ENCOURAGEMENT :Of course first and foremost is our concern for one another's health and well being. Next week you should be receiving a care call from someone from our church. We are setting up small care networks of 5 households who are invited to look out for each other. Some of you are very close with others already, others may feel more isolated-this way hopefully no one will "fall through the cracks".

LEADERSHIP: In these extraordinary times I appreciate the leadership of our Moderator Rev. Richard Bott, our Executive minister the Rev. Faith March-MacCuish and Region 15 regional Minister Rev. David Hewitt as well as of their office staff. Clergy have daily occasion to join life chats across the region or country to connect with other United Church ministers for support. In our church the Official Board has met via "Zoom" technology in a video conferencing call.

CHURCH GROUPS: Your committee of the church can also book a Zoom call by contacting [REDACTED] Jennifer Taylor at the central office will set it up for you. Its easy.

May I ask that although you will not be meeting as a committee in person for a while you think about alternate ways to do what you want to achieve.

Decisions can continue to be made in transparent and accountable ways. Email polls for ex. are fine to assess everyone's position. Email votes can only be done in the United Church when there is an exceptional situation (which I guess we have now!) and if everyone on the committee is participating.

Continued Givings: We are kindly asking that, unless this situation has put you in financial hardship, you continue to forward your weekly or monthly givings. You can mail a cheque to the church address, and indicate your envelope no. Or give by PAR. More in formation on PAR will follow later.

COVID 19 RESPONSE TEAM: Each church is supposed to have such a team.Friday the Official Board decided that the Executive of the Board will act as Covid 19 response team. The executive consists of: The Board Chair (Stuart Jamieson) Board Secretary (Rosanne Peach) Treasurer (Wendy Fletcher), the chair of Stewards (Peter Hall), the chair of session (Rev. Elisabeth or designate) and the minister.

Communication: If you are on Facebook, "like" our Church page for updates,prayers, articles and jokes. There is also a new Community Facebook group called "Caremongering" which already has over 800 members.

Our website has bulletins and sermons as well as Blog Posts by me.

Last not least: Good ol' telephone!!

Thank you for taking the time to read!

You are in my Prayers! Sending Blessings to you and your loved ones in this difficult time

Rev. Elisabeth

PS And its SPRING my friends!

Announcement: via Judy Lind: Annapolis Meals on Wheels needs a few new drivers while others had to step back due to the pandemic. Please contact Judy if you can help